

Adopting The Inclusion Of Additional Lands In Agricultural Districts Within Ulster County As Recommended By The Ulster County Agricultural And Farmland Protection Board – Department Of Planning

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman James Maloney and Legislators Archer, Delaune, Litts, Maio, Rodriguez, and Woltman)

Chairman of the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit Committee, James F. Maloney, and Deputy Chair Hector Rodriguez offer the following:

WHEREAS, consistent with §303(b) of New York Agriculture and Markets Law (AML), Ulster County established an annual 30-day review period from March 1st to March 30th, for farmers to request the inclusion of additional lands in Agricultural Districts within Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, during this period, 14 requests were submitted to the Ulster County Legislature, consisting of 20 parcels with a total of approximately 457 acres; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2018, the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature transmitted the requests for inclusion to the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) for their recommendations as required under §303(b) of the AML; and

WHEREAS, the AFPB met and reviewed the requests on May 31, 2018, and after consideration of the factors required under §303(b) of the AML, by a majority vote of its members, recommended the inclusion of additional lands in Agricultural Districts within Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board has filed these recommendations and supporting documentation with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature, thereby fulfilling its obligations under §303(b) of the AML; and

WHEREAS, The Ulster County Legislature held the required public hearing on June 19, 2018 with 1 public comment by email; and

WHEREAS, the addition of lands to Agricultural Districts with respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (Part 617 NYCRR) are considered an Unlisted Action and an Environmental Assessment Form has been completed and filed with the Clerk of the Legislature; now, therefore be it

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature finds, after review of the Environmental Assessment Form and the recommendations of the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board, for the inclusion of lands within agricultural districts, as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, that no significant adverse environmental impacts will occur as a result of this action and a Negative Declaration is adopted under NYCRR Part 617.7 (SEQRA); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature adopts the recommendations of the AFBP as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature, which includes the placement of additional lands within existing agricultural districts in Ulster County totaling 17 parcels and approximately 439 acres; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall submit this resolution, a copy of the AFPB report and other material as required under Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AA – Agricultural Districts, to the Commissioner of Agriculture, and request that the Commissioner certify the inclusion of these lands in an agriculture district if feasible and in the public interest;

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Passed Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit on July 3, 2018

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 17th Day of July in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 19th Day of July in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature